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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/067,208	04/28/1998	WILLIAM G. HOWARD	P-7860	9814
27581	7590	10/10/2003	EXAMINER	
MEDTRONIC, INC. 710 MEDTRONIC PARKWAY NE MS-LC340 MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55432-5604			CREPEAU, JONATHAN	
		ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER	
		1746		

DATE MAILED: 10/10/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Advisory Action</b>	Application N .	Applicant(s)
	09/067,208	HOWARD, WILLIAM G
Examiner	Art Unit	
Jonathan S. Crepeau	1746	

--The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

THE REPLY FILED 24 September 2003 FAILS TO PLACE THIS APPLICATION IN CONDITION FOR ALLOWANCE. Therefore, further action by the applicant is required to avoid abandonment of this application. A proper reply to a final rejection under 37 CFR 1.113 may only be either: (1) a timely filed amendment which places the application in condition for allowance; (2) a timely filed Notice of Appeal (with appeal fee); or (3) a timely filed Request for Continued Examination (RCE) in compliance with 37 CFR 1.114.

**PERIOD FOR REPLY** [check either a) or b)]

- a)  The period for reply expires 3 months from the mailing date of the final rejection.
- b)  The period for reply expires on: (1) the mailing date of this Advisory Action, or (2) the date set forth in the final rejection, whichever is later. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of the final rejection.  
ONLY CHECK THIS BOX WHEN THE FIRST REPLY WAS FILED WITHIN TWO MONTHS OF THE FINAL REJECTION. See MPEP 706.07(f).

Extensions of time may be obtained under 37 CFR 1.136(a). The date on which the petition under 37 CFR 1.136(a) and the appropriate extension fee have been filed is the date for purposes of determining the period of extension and the corresponding amount of the fee. The appropriate extension fee under 37 CFR 1.17(a) is calculated from: (1) the expiration date of the shortened statutory period for reply originally set in the final Office action; or (2) as set forth in (b) above, if checked. Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of the final rejection, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

1.  A Notice of Appeal was filed on 24 September 2003. Appellant's Brief must be filed within the period set forth in 37 CFR 1.192(a), or any extension thereof (37 CFR 1.191(d)), to avoid dismissal of the appeal.
2.  The proposed amendment(s) will not be entered because:
  - (a)  they raise new issues that would require further consideration and/or search (see NOTE below);
  - (b)  they raise the issue of new matter (see Note below);
  - (c)  they are not deemed to place the application in better form for appeal by materially reducing or simplifying the issues for appeal; and/or
  - (d)  they present additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims.

NOTE: \_\_\_\_\_.

3.  Applicant's reply has overcome the following rejection(s): \_\_\_\_\_.
4.  Newly proposed or amended claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ would be allowable if submitted in a separate, timely filed amendment canceling the non-allowable claim(s).
5.  The a) affidavit, b) exhibit, or c) request for reconsideration has been considered but does NOT place the application in condition for allowance because: See Continuation Sheet.
6.  The affidavit or exhibit will NOT be considered because it is not directed SOLELY to issues which were newly raised by the Examiner in the final rejection.
7.  For purposes of Appeal, the proposed amendment(s) a) will not be entered or b) will be entered and an explanation of how the new or amended claims would be rejected is provided below or appended.

The status of the claim(s) is (or will be) as follows:

Claim(s) allowed: \_\_\_\_\_.

Claim(s) objected to: \_\_\_\_\_.

Claim(s) rejected: 1,3-8,10,12-17 and 95-97.

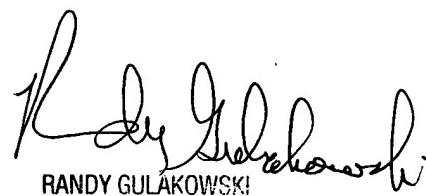
Claim(s) withdrawn from consideration: \_\_\_\_\_.

8.  The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is a) approved or b) disapproved by the Examiner.

9.  Note the attached Information Disclosure Statement(s)( PTO-1449) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_.

10.  Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

Continuation of 5. does NOT place the application in condition for allowance because: Applicant's argument that col. 6, lines 46-65 of Howard supports the limitation that the strip of alkali metal is longer than the anode current collector is still not persuasive. Applicant asserts that, in particular, the disclosure that "[t]his will ensure that the outer winding of the electrode assembly has an alkali metal layer 15 facing the cathode material 60 and the bare current collector 5 at the end 18 will face outward" supports the limitation. Even if it could be postulated that the alkali metal extends beyond the current collector in the outermost layer, this disclosure is only concerned with one end (the outer end) of the anode assembly. There is no disclosure regarding the other (inner) end of the anode assembly, i.e., the one wound on the mandrel. Thus, it still cannot be concluded that the total length of the current collector 5 must necessarily be less than the total length of the strip 15. Further, applicant's analysis does not take into account the situation where the length of the collector is equal to the length of the strip. Applicants take the position that the cathode material in the outer layer would be covered by alkali metal only in the situation where the anode current collector is shorter than the alkali strip. However, the cathode material in the outer layer would also be covered in the situation where the strip and the current collector are the same length. Thus, the disclosure of Howard does not compel a conclusion that the current collector must be shorter than the strip. Thus, Howard does not support this limitation in the instant claims.



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